

**Service:** Children and Young People's Services  
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**Manual:** Children in Need  
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## **INTRODUCTION - SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

This document outlines the philosophy and legislative framework for working with children in need. It underpins the policy and procedures relating to service provision for all children in need and their families. It operates within the statutory framework and in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004.

All children, young people and their parents or carers require support from universal services. For some this level of support will be insufficient to meet their needs. In such cases services are likely to be required from targeted or specialist services.

The objective in providing such additional support is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need and to ensure they achieve the 5 outcomes as set out in the Children Act 2004 – being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well-being.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CYPS Children and Young Persons Service  
SASS Safeguarding and Specialist Services  
YPS Young People's Service (over 16s)

## **THE OVERARCHING FRAMEWORK**

These procedures establish a needs-led and outcome focused approach to service provision and provide an operational guide to prioritising, planning, monitoring and evaluating interventions.

Local Authority services to children in need are provided through statutory duties and powers in Part III and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989. The procedures provide the overarching framework for the provision by CYPS of the whole range of services to children and families, and for different levels and types of interventions. They provide appropriate tools for the assessment of need at different levels. They provide the links between referral, screening and assessment processes carried out by Social Care Direct and the Initial Assessment Team, Disabled Children's Team and Young People's Service, Core Assessments by Children in Need social workers, and specialist assessments relating to specific areas of service provision or requiring multi-agency input. These procedures are relevant for all CYPS staff involved in receiving referrals and requests for services for children and families, conducting assessment of needs, and planning and reviewing service provision.

Part III of the Children Act 1989 and Sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 require a corporate and inter-agency approach to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children in need and their families.

These procedures provide the framework whereby planning and service provision is co-ordinated within the agency and across agency boundaries, and targeted to achieve good

outcomes for the child. They are also relevant for professional staff in other agencies who may be involved in identifying and assessing children as being 'in need', referring the children to Safeguarding and Specialist Services and in planning and reviewing services provided to them.

These procedures recognise:

- The need to take a holistic view of the needs of vulnerable children and their families.
- That families need help at an early stage to tackle problems to prevent emerging problems becoming chronic or acute.
- The corporate responsibility of the local authority as a whole for providing services to children in need, in collaboration with its partner agencies.

## **THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

These procedures relate to the duties on local authorities and their partners in relation to the duty to co-operate to improve well-being and safeguard and promote children's welfare.

The Children Act 1989 defines children in need as:

### **1. Those children:**

- Who are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development,
- or
- Whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services.

### **2. Disabled children**

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 states the conditions under which a child shall be taken to be in need, and Part III of the Act sets out the Local Authority's powers and duties in relation to the provision of services for children in need, their families and others.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty upon the Local Authority:

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and,
- So far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families,

by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.

Schedule 2 of the Act:

- Requires the local authority to take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are children in need within the area, and ensure those who might benefit from the services, receive the information relevant to them.
- Allows for assessments of need for the purposes of the Children Act 1989 to be carried out at the same time as assessments under other legislation.

Section 27 of the Act requires co-operation between authorities. Where help is requested of an authority it shall comply with the request if it is compatible with its own statutory and other duties.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires children's services authorities and their partners to co-operate to improve the well-being of children.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires children's services authorities to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

In addition, similar responsibilities fall to schools under section 175 of the Education Act 2002.

## **VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

These procedures are in accordance with the values and principles set out in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child; the Children Act 1989; and 'Investing in Children'. The philosophy, and key values and principles that underpin the provision of services to children and families are set out in a related document - see [Section 1.2](#).

CYPS is committed to the delivery of services that are non-discriminatory, are sensitive to the needs of all children and families, and have regard to their needs in relation to race, language, gender, disability and sexuality.

## **CRITERIA AND POLICIES FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICE PROVISION**

### ***Levels of Intervention***

These procedures are based on the premise that families require different levels of support or intervention. Different agencies and professionals provide services at all these levels, and these procedures aim to promote a co-ordinated response from all agencies whose services may contribute to achieving the desired outcomes for the child.

### ***Universal***

Available to the general population of children and families.

### ***Targeted***

Address emerging problems before they develop into crises or require more specialised professional intervention.

### ***Specialist***

Address a wide range of long term and/or intense difficulties, often requiring a high level of multi-disciplinary professional input and co-ordination.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Most children who are referred for an assessment as children in need are likely to be known to a number of other agencies and in most circumstances to have been assessed under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Unless there are clear safeguarding concerns, it will be usual for a CAF to have been completed and work with the team around the child to have been undertaken before deciding to refer to Safeguarding and Specialist services.

These procedures identify the eligibility criteria for assessment by Safeguarding and Specialist Services

## **CARE PLANNING, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The procedures require specific plans to be formulated for all children and families receiving a service from SASS and partner agencies. The plans should identify objectives linked to specific outcomes; set clear time scales; and identify who will take responsibility for putting plans into practice; and ensure best value from available resources.

The plan will identify how the interventions will be monitored to gather information to judge the effectiveness of the service provision in achieving the desired outcomes.

The procedures establish a system for reviewing the plans for the child and the progress made towards achieving the desired outcomes.

***This is a Controlled Document***